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AUG 22 2006

REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the following remarks.

B. The Invention

In one of the novel aspects of the invention, a bending press system has a control system which controls a plurality of actuators, each actuator is associated with a group of adjacent clamps, each group has a plurality of adjacent clamps. In each group, the clamps are interconnected for simultaneously controlling each clamp within the group. Such a system allows increase flexibility and speed for adapting the press to any particular size of the piece or pieces to be bent.

C. Claim Status and Amendments

Claims 1-12 are presented for further prosecution. Claims 1-6 have been amended and claims 7-12 have been added to mirror claims 1-6.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the 112 objections and to specify that the bending tool clamps form a plurality of adjacent groups of adjacent clamps.

Claim 2 has been rewritten into a independent claim with all the limitations of the previous claim 1 and claim 2. It has also been revised to overcome the 112 objections.

Claims 3-6 have been revised to remove the indefinites to overcome the 112 objections.

The above amendments are formal revisions. The supports of these amendments are in the original claims as filed.

Claims 7-12 are added to recapture some features described in the section of Detailed Description in the specification. The supports are in the figures 3, 4, 5, and 6.

There is no new matter added by these amendments.

D. The Office Action

1. Objections under 35 USC 112

Claims 1-6 have been objected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicants have rewritten claims 1-6

according to the points raised under 35 U.S.C. 112 in the office action.

Applicants respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are definite and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The examiner has indicated that claims 2-6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 112 rejections and include all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten the claims to clear the 112 defects and included all of the limitations. Applicants respectfully request the claims 2-6 to be allowed.

## 2. Rejection under 35 USC 102 (e)

Claims 1 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by HARRINGTON.

The examiner has taken the position that, HARRINGTON teaches the device with a plurality of actuator assemblies with an example of an actuator assembly generally at 200 in Fig. 2, the actuator assembly having two clamps 44/46, a plurality of transmission means being at 300 in Fig. 2 in each of the plurality of actuator assemblies, and the means for controlling each of the assemblies being at 340 in Fig. 2, thus anticipate the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The present invention relates to a bending press includes at least two (a plurality) groups of at least two adjacent clamps. The control system comprises at least two actuators and at least two transmission means for transmitting the state taken by each actuator to a group of at least two adjacent clamps so that each clamp is associated with a single actuator, and means for separately controlling the state of each one of said actuators.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the bending tool clamps form a plurality of adjacent groups of adjacent clamps. The amended claim 1 read, in part, "N bending-tool clamps, each clamp being mounted on one of said two panels to pivot about a common axis common to all said bending tool clamps for clamping bending one of said two panels, said bending tool clamps forming a plurality of adjacent groups of adjacent clamps, the number of groups being less than N". It is clear that there are at least two adjacent groups of at least two adjacent clamps.

HARRINGTON describes a system to control only two adjacent bending tool clamps. In figure 2, reference 200 corresponds to a tool holder (see column 4, lines 40-41 of HARRINGTON). In contrast, such an item is referred to a bending-tool clamp assembly in this application. Reference 340 does not depict a system for controlling the state of actuators but a pressurized fluid source (column 5, lines 55-56). In addition, member 300 is not a transmission means to transmit the state of an actuator but a cam shaft controlled by the pressurized fluid supplied by the fluid source 340 (column 5, lines 45 - 48). Finally, HARRINGTON

fails to teach how a plurality of adjacent groups of adjacent clamps can be separately controlled.

HARRINGTON fails to teach a plurality of adjacent groups of adjacent clamps and its separate controlling portion. Therefore, it does not anticipate the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that the present invention is patentable over HARRINGTON.


E. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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